

CAMPUS CONTACT NEWSLETTER

HAMMERMILL---

We want that you continue all activities in pressuring the Hammermill Paper Company to move out of Alabama. Continue pressuring college administrations to cancel Hammermill accounts and ask printers, stationary, drug, and department stores to cancel all contracts with Hammermill. May 11 Hammermill is having its annual stockholders meeting. On that day we hope to have demonstrations at all Hammermill offices and plants across the country. If there is a Hammermill office or plant in your city, you should begin planning for May 11 now.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE---

It was decided that in the week of May 9-16 students across the country will demonstrate to call for new elections. We want that an educational process should start now in getting your communities and campuses to understand the Challenge and the need for new elections. In a few days you should receive a mailing explaining the Challenge and the reasons why we are calling for free elections.

ALABAMA STATE COLLEGE---

The students are continuing their protests. April 14 there was a march on the campus of the Alabama State College. It began with about 20 students and ended up with about 300. Alabama State students spoke about the list of grievances which they had against the administration. White students marching with the group were not allowed on campus. On April 20 there was a faculty-administration court hearing charging 17 students who had been demonstrating with the Alabama State Freedom Committee with insubordination, willful defiance of authority and conduct prejudicial to the college and unbecoming a student and future teacher.

The hearing was terminated after Charles Conley, a lawyer working with SNCC, pointed out that the charges were vague and not specific enough to prepare a defense. Conley stated that the school was under an injunction from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The court order, issued in 1962 during lunch counter sit-ins forbids the school from expelling students participating in demonstrations for their constitutional rights without a proper hearing and a forewarning of specific charges. It held that procedural due process "requires notice and some opportunity for hearing before students at a tax supported college are expelled for misconduct."

After the hearing the students called for an all-college assembly. They picketed the campus for awhile, had a rally and decided to hold a sit-in at the President's office. After a 13½ hour sit-in 13 students were arrested early in the morning of April 21. Students are protesting the arrests through demonstrations and a general boycott of classes.

The students are asking that you hold support demonstrations and send telegrams protesting the arrests and the refusal of the president to talk to the students. Telegrams should be sent to Dr. Watkins, President, Alabama State College, Montgomery, Alabama.

SNCC NEEDS \$\$ NOW---

Students have been sending in many good money making ideas. San Diego State College is having a SNCC week in which they will show SNCC movies, have panel discussions, and have a booth in which students can try their luck in taking the Alabama voter registration test. Students of the art department are donating paintings and pottery to be sold for SNCC.

The University of Illinois had a faculty-student party where admission was charged. During the evening a Chinese auction was held for paintings donated by local artists. In a Chinese auction when one bids \$3, he immediately puts \$3 in the pot so if the object goes for \$4 the seller receives \$7.

#### THE PEOPLES WANTS FREEDOM---

At the Washington Conference an excellent film strip "The Peoples Wants Freedom" was shown. Through photographs and poetry it shows the conditions of the poor people in the South. The film can be obtained for two dollars by writing to Jane Stembridge, c/o Robert McNamara, P.O. Box 107, Tougaloo, Mississippi. Although it is not an official SNCC film, it can be used as the focus for an evening discussion of SNCC.

#### COTTON WORKERS FORM LABOR UNION---

Over 60 members of the newly formed Mississippi Freedom Labor Union picketed a U.S. Department of Labor sponsored meeting in Greenville, Mississippi. The union organized less than a week ago has over 500 members in six counties. The meeting dealt with far labor in the Delta. The picketers protested the fact that no Negroes were invited to speak or participate in the conference.

Members of the Freedom Labor Union, formed April 9, 1965, have signed pledge forms calling for \$1.25 minimum wage; an eight hour day with time and a half for overtime; children under 16 and people over 60 not having to work; sick leave and free medical care; full compensation from the government for those who can not get jobs; health and accident insurance; and equal employment practices in wages, hiring and working conditions. Union members have pledged to use all forms of direct action including "strikes, picketing and boycotts," to win their demands.

The union was formed in Shaw, Mississippi when 45 workers signed the pledge forms. "The idea for the union came out of a Freedom School meeting," said George Shelton a resident of Shaw and organizer for the MFLU. "We felt that we should be getting a fair price for what we were working for," he added. Shelton explained that people down here get \$1.75 a day for chopping cotton for a ten hour day." The Mississippi union has organized workers in Bolivar, Sunflower, Washington, Issaquena, Sharkey and Holmes Counties.

#### EXPANSION OF SNCC WORK IN ALABAMA---

The civil rights glamor and publicity, the actors and the reporters are gone from Selma, but the day to day, door to door work continues. Even while the Selma to Montgomery march was in process SNCC workers spread their organizational efforts to the nine counties surrounding Dallas County.

SNCC workers have set up offices in the towns of York, Marion, Hayneville, Greensboro and Montgomery. In Lowndes County workers aided local people in setting up the Lowndes County Improvement Association. In Hayneville, its county seat, 40 people attempted to register at the courthouse.

Workers have moved into Perry, Wilcox, Lowndes, Sumpter, Greene, Hale, Pickens, Calhoun and Montgomery Counties. All except Montgomery and Pickens have over 50% Negro population. Greene and Wilcox have over 80%. A SNCC field secretary explained: "Most of the work is trying to overcome fear. We are trying to organize the people so that they can solve their own problems."

#### SUMMER PROGRAM---

We expect our general need for summer volunteers to continue. Within the week a detailed report will come out on our summer project. Campus groups should start working on forming screening committees for interested applicants.

#### SNCC LITERATURE---

Unfortunately there is no good current bulk literature available in the Atlanta office. We suggest that you mimeograph up copies of the material that we send to you (Farm Labor Union and Alabama SNCC work) and use this for publicity and recruitment purposes.

Freedom, Esther Heifetz  
Northern Campus Coordinator

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee      April 25, 1965  
6 Raymond Street N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia

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#### INJUNCTION AGAINST SUNFLOWER COUNTY REGISTRAR---

April 10 a Federal Court issued an injunction in Sunflower County, Mississippi which allows people to register without any literacy test except for copying down four lines of the Constitution. No interpretation is required.

This injunction will last a year, but we want to get as many people as possible registered for the June elections. Cars are needed immediately for this work; you should try to send down a car with a worker now. For further information contact Fred Winn, Box 30, Indianola, Mississippi, 1498, 1112.

#### MAY 9 - 16 DEMONSTRATIONS---

At the student conference in Washington D.C. it was decided that there would be coordinated demonstrations by students throughout the country in the week of May 9 to 16 calling for new and free elections.

You should start planning these demonstrations immediately, and you should begin an educational campaign among your campus and home communities, explaining the reasons for supporting new elections and the MFDP Challenge.

#### NEW ELECTIONS---

The passage of a voting bill without requiring new elections will directly lead to amounts of terror and intimidation yet unseen by the civil rights movement. For local law enforcement will remain in the hands of men like Neshoba County's Sheriff Rainey for four more years so that there can be a continuation of economic intimidation (firing from jobs, cutting off welfare checks, withdrawing surplus food) and beatings, bomb threats, and killings by local white racists.

Many of the states most affected by the bill will not hold state or local elections for two or more years, which means that the bill will be ineffective for the next few years.

1) In Alabama the terms of all state and some county officials will not expire until November 1966. All others expire in 1968.

2) Georgia county officers will not stand for election until November 1968.

3) The Louisiana general election for county officials will be held in April of 1968.

4) Mississippi county and state officials are re-elected in August of 1967. City officials are elected in May and June of 1965, just before the voting bill gets through Congress.

We call for new elections to be held no sooner than six and no later than nine months after the appointment of federal registrars. For within this time, with simple registration procedures and adequate personnel, thousands of southern Negroes can be registered.

#### THE CHALLENGE---

We believe that the issues involved in Southern suffrage are most clearly drawn in the Challenge by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. The House of Representatives has clear, constitutional authority to determine who shall and who shall not have seats in the House. The House by a majority vote can instruct the state of Mississippi just how its Congressional elections must be conducted if it wants its representatives in the House. The House can determine who shall and who shall not vote in such elections, under what conditions persons shall be registered to vote in those elections, and when and where the elections are to be conducted.

The final enfranchisement of Negroes depends much more on the effective pursuit of the Challenge than it does on the enactment of any new civil rights legislation.

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party contends that primary elections held in Mississippi June 2, and the general elections held November 3 are void. The FDP is also contesting the seating of the five Mississippi Congressmen.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville, Mrs. Annie Devine of Canton, and Mrs. Victoria Gray of Hattiesburg have asked the House of Representatives to refuse to seat their opponents. They have charged that the election "violates the Constitution and laws of the United States because Negroes throughout the state of Mississippi...were systematically and almost totally excluded from the electoral process...."

Technically the MFDP is "challenging" the election and "contesting" the seating of three representatives. That is, the FDP is "challenging" the state-run elections, contending they are null and void since they excluded Negroes from the electoral process. They are also "contesting" the seating of five Mississippi congressmen on the grounds the five were not elected in a free and open election. Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray charge that they are the only true representatives since their election was the only one "open to all citizens."

#### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND WHERE ARE WE MOVING---

Step One (December 2 - January 3): The challenges were filed with the contested representatives. The "regular" Democrats have 30 days to reply.

Step Two (January 4): On the opening day of Congress a group of Congressmen (119) challenged the right of the contested delegates to take their seats.

Step Three (January 2 - February 10): The MFDP had 40 days to take their testimony in Mississippi in public hearings.

Step Four (February 10 - March 20): The challenged representatives had 40 days to take their testimony; they took none.

Step Five (March 20 - March 30): The MFDP had ten days to take rebuttal testimony. The overall evidence was presented to the Clerk of the House and then forwarded to the public printer. The briefs were then presented to the Subcommittee on Elections and Privileges.

Step Six (May 1 - July 1): The challengers then have 30 days to file their briefs; the challenged have 30 days to reply.

Step Seven: At this point all the accumulated evidence, briefs, responses, etc, are handed over to the House Committee on Administration which will in all probability hand the case to the Subcommittee on Elections and Privileges.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO---

Throughout step six you must keep working on educating the public on what is happening and in building support. For step 7 we want to have about 1,000 students in Washington D.C. where they will lobby for the MFDP. The Washington program is explained in the enclosed memo.

#### INTIMIDATION IN AMITE COUNTY---

On Easter Sunday in Liberty, Mississippi the sons of FDP member Reverend Alfred Knox were beaten by two white men. JB and Willie Knox filed warrants for the arrests of Dal Blaleck for assault with a deadly weapon and against Jerry Blaleck for assault and battery. When the complaint was filed on Thursday, Amite County Sheriff Daniel Jones arrested the Knoxes with a warrant sworn out by the Blalecks charging the brothers with assault with a deadly weapon. The Knoxes were bailed out immediately on \$300 each.

We are trying to put pressure on Sheriff Jones to arrest the Blalecks. Call Congressmen, professors, friends, etc, and have them pressure Sheriff Jones, Liberty, Mississippi  
(601) 657-2661 or (601) 657-2722